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OO RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHAN #0580 1640929
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 130929Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4956
INFO RUCNSAD/SADC COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0921

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 000580

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/E, AF/FO, INR/AA, AND DRL
PARIS FOR D'ELIA
DEPT FOR DS/IP/AF/E - CKOLLMAR
DEPT FOR DS/DSS/ITA - DROTHSTEIN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [MA](#)
SUBJECT: STUDENTS BURN MADAGASCAR CAMPUS AMPHITHEATRE

REF: ANTAN 435 AND PREVIOUS

11. (U) Police contacts report that an unknown number of students set fire to the amphitheatre on the campus at the University in Fianarantsoa, in south-central Madagascar, early June 13. The entire building and an adjoining registrar's office, where many students' files are stored, burned to the ground. Police suspect political opposition figures in this anti-Ravalomanana stronghold put the students up to the arson, but have no suspects yet.

12. (SBU) In recent months there has been unrest at campuses in many of Madagascar's coastal cities (reftels). Unpaid school fees, lack of electricity, and political discontent - in that order - have motivated students to protest, sometimes violently. This arson is a typical act of Malagasy political violence; a symbolic and destructive act of protest against authority.

SIBLEY